

Demographic & Economic Information for

# Silver Bow County



**February 2009**

*Photo courtesy of Donnie Sexton, Travel Montana*



**Montana Department  
of Labor and Industry**  
**WORKFORCE SERVICES DIVISION**



Research and Analysis Bureau - P.O. Box 1728 - Helena, MT 59624-1728  
Ph: (406) 444-2430 or (800) 541-3904, Fax: (406) 444-2638, E-mail:  
[webmsterrad@mt.gov](mailto:webmsterrad@mt.gov), [www.ourfactsyourfuture.org](http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org)



Census and Economic Information Center  
Montana Department of Commerce  
P.O. Box 200505 - Helena, MT 59620-0505  
Ph: (406) 841-2740 - Fax: (406) 841-2731  
E-mail: [ceic@mt.gov](mailto:ceic@mt.gov) - Website: [www.ceic.mt.gov](http://www.ceic.mt.gov)



# Silver Bow County

Silver Bow County is Montana's eighth most populous county, with an estimated 32,652 residents as of July 1st, 2007. In 1977, the county and the city of Butte consolidated their governments into a single entity known as Butte-Silver Bow. Among other Montana cities, the Butte-Silver Bow area ranks as the fifth most populous.<sup>1</sup> Other cities and towns in Silver Bow County include: Centerville, Divide, Melrose, Ramsay, Silver Bow, and Walkerville.

Butte, a former copper mining boomtown, was once Montana's largest city. While copper mining continues on a smaller scale, Butte's economy is now driven by more diverse sources, such as Health Care, Retail Trade, Utilities, and Tourism. A town rich in history and possessing one of the largest historical districts in the U.S., Butte has developed a successful "heritage tourism" industry. Non-residents spent an estimated \$67 million in Butte-Silver Bow in 2005.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, Butte has attracted several technology-based companies to the area, such as ASimi, Synesis7, Portlock Software, e-DOCS USA, and ITG World.<sup>2</sup> In 2009, Butte AeroTec has plans to open a site for testing rocket, jet, and hybrid engines.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program*

<sup>2</sup>*"Butte-Silver Bow Community Business Plan," Butte Local Development Corporation, [www.buttemontana.org/Draft%20Business%20Plan%20final%20draft.pdf](http://www.buttemontana.org/Draft%20Business%20Plan%20final%20draft.pdf)*

<sup>3</sup>*Tim Trainor, "Rocket site ready to blast off," The Montana Standard, Jan. 14th, 2009, [www.mtstandard.com/articles/2009/01/15/area/hhjajifhggfj.txt](http://www.mtstandard.com/articles/2009/01/15/area/hhjajifhggfj.txt)*

## Resources for Silver Bow County

### Chamber of Commerce

#### Butte-Silver Bow Chamber of Commerce

1000 George Street  
Butte, MT 59701  
(406) 723-3177  
or (800) 735-6814  
E-mail: [chamber@buttecc.com](mailto:chamber@buttecc.com)  
[www.butteinfo.org](http://www.butteinfo.org)

### Job Service Workforce Center

#### Butte Job Service One-Stop Workforce Center

2201 White Boulevard  
Butte, MT 59702  
Ph: (406) 494-0300  
Fax: (406) 494-5481  
<http://wsd.dli.mt.gov/local/butte>

### Economic Development

**Butte Local Development Corporation**  
305 West Mercury Street, Butte, MT 59701  
Ph: (406) 723-4349, Fax: (406) 723-4672  
E-mail: [bldc@bldc.net](mailto:bldc@bldc.net), [www.buttemontana.org](http://www.buttemontana.org)

### Business Expansion And Retention (BEAR)

Contact: Dale Mahugh  
Phone: (406) 497-3756  
E-mail: [Dale.Mahugh@northwestern.com](mailto:Dale.Mahugh@northwestern.com)

### Newspapers

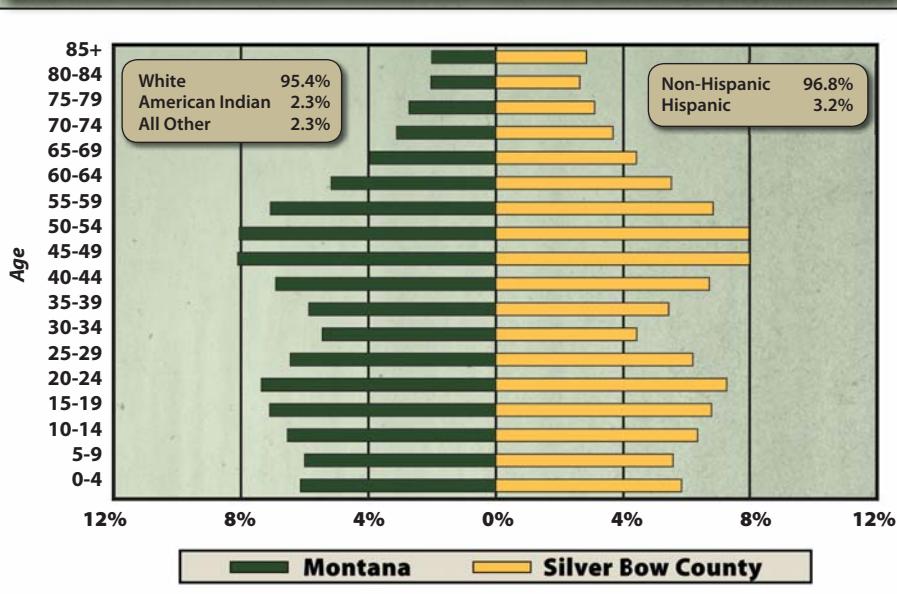
**Montana Standard**  
25 West Granite Street  
Butte, MT 59701  
(406) 496-5500 or (800) 877-1074  
[www.montanastandard.com](http://www.montanastandard.com)

## Population for Silver Bow County & Related Areas

Geography	% Change 2000-2007	Population Estimates							Census April 1, 2000
		July 1, 2007	July 1, 2006	July 1, 2005	July 1, 2004	July 1, 2003	July 1, 2002	July 1, 2001	
Silver Bow County	-5.6%	32,652	32,682	32,781	32,904	33,072	33,365	33,722	34,606
Butte-Silver Bow (balance)	-5.7%	31,967	31,994	32,087	32,210	32,386	32,678	33,027	33,892
Walkerville town	-4.1%	685	688	694	694	686	687	695	714

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

## Distribution of Population by Age Montana and Silver Bow County, 2007



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 Population Estimates

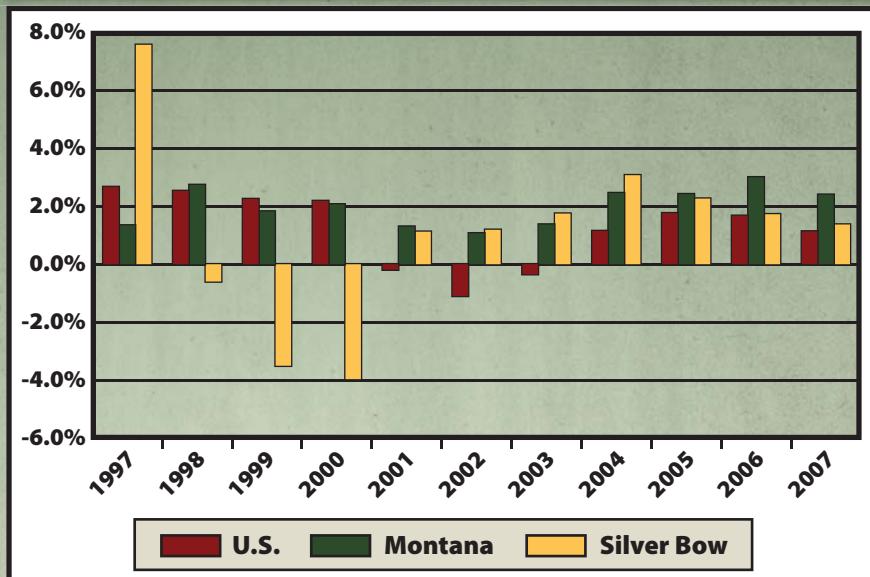
## Highest Level of Educational Attainment (Population 25 years and older)

Educational Attainment	Silver Bow County	Montana	U.S.
Less than High School Diploma	14.9%	12.8%	19.6%
High School Diploma (or equivalent)	34.3%	31.3%	28.6%
Some College	24.6%	25.6%	21.0%
Associate Degree	4.5%	5.9%	6.3%
Bachelor's Degree	14.8%	17.2%	15.5%
Master's Degree	5.0%	4.6%	5.9%
Professional Degree	1.3%	1.7%	2.0%
Doctoral Degree	0.6%	0.9%	1.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

## Percent Change in Employment: 1997 to 2007

U.S., Montana, and Silver Bow County



Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)

## Top 20 Private Employers in Silver Bow County

(Based on 2nd Quarter 2008 Data - Listed in Alphabetical Order)

Business Name	Size Class	Business Name	Size Class
Acadia Montana	7	MSE Technology Applications Inc.	6
Advanced Silicon Materials	6	Mercury Street Medical	5
Aware Inc.	6	Montana Resources	7
Butte Convalescent Center	6	Montana Standard	6
Butte GM Auto Center	5	Northwestern Energy	7
Community Counseling & Correctional Service	7	Safeway	6
Crest Nursing Home	5	Silver House	5
Easter Seals - Goodwill	6	St. James Community Hospital	8
Harrington Restaurant Supply	5	Town Pump	7
Herberger's	5	Wal-Mart	7

Employment Size Class Coding: Class 9 = 1000+ employees, Class 8 = 500 to 999 employees, Class 7 = 250 to 499 employees, Class 6 = 100 to 249 employees, Class 5 = 50 to 99 employees, Class 4 = 20 to 49 employees, Class 3 = 10 to 19 employees

Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW) This list includes ONLY private industry employers subject to unemployment insurance. Railroads and government agencies are excluded.

# Agricultural Statistics - Silver Bow County

<b>Farms</b>			
	<b>2007 Census</b>	<b>2002 Census</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>Farms: (number)</b>	175	155	13%
Land in farms (acres)	101,081	73,792	37%
Average size of farms (acres)	578	476	21%
Median size of farms (acres)	150	180	-17%
<b>Farms by size: (number)</b>			
Less than 1,000 acres	150	135	11%
1,000 acres or more	25	20	25%
<b>Farms by value of products sold: (number)</b>			
Less than \$100,000	159	145	10%
\$100,000 or more	16	10	60%
<b>Farms by type of organization: (number)</b>			
Family, Individual, Partnership	154	146	5%
Corporation, Cooperative, Trust	21	9	133%
<b>Livestock Inventory and Crops Harvested</b>			
<b>Livestock and Poultry Inventory (number)</b>			
Cattle and calves	9,103	5,937	53%
Hogs and pigs	76	(D)	(D)
Sheep and lambs	219	291	-25%
Horses and ponies	683	758	-10%
Bison	0	56	NA
Chickens (layers and broilers)	135	68	99%
<b>Crops Harvested (acres)</b>			
Corn for grain	0	0	NA
Corn for silage or greenchop	0	0	NA
Wheat for grain, All	0	0	NA
Winter wheat for grain	0	0	NA
Spring wheat for grain	0	0	NA
Durum wheat for grain	0	0	NA
Oats for grain	0		NA
Barley for grain	0	0	NA
Hay, haylage, grass silage	6,710	6,281	7%
Sunflower seed, All	0	0	NA
<b>Operator Demographics</b>			
<b>Primary occupation: (number)</b>			
Farming	57	83	-31%
Other	118	72	64%
<b>Place of residence: (number)</b>			
On farm operated	152	139	9%
Not on farm operated	23	16	44%
<b>Years on present farm: (number)</b>			
Less than 10 years	35	42	-17%
10 years or more	140	113	24%
<b>Age group: (number)</b>			
Under 55 years	68	78	-13%
55 years and over	107	77	39%
<b>Average age of operators: (number)</b>	58.7	55.1	7%

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2002  
(D) - Not Disclosable

## Employment by Industry - Annual Averages 2007

Industry	Number of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Annual Wages Per Job
TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES	1,226	15,397	\$33,434
TOTAL PRIVATE	1,183	13,297	\$31,901
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING	3	15	\$27,718
Crop production	1	*	*
Animal production	2	*	*
MINING	5	*	*
Oil and gas extraction	1	*	*
Mining, except oil and gas	1	*	*
Support activities for mining	3	45	\$41,609
UTILITIES	11	*	*
CONSTRUCTION	117	579	\$34,414
Construction of buildings	42	206	\$30,251
Heavy and civil engineering construction	12	80	\$47,703
Specialty trade contractors	64	294	\$33,723
MANUFACTURING	42	599	\$44,837
Food manufacturing	7	43	\$12,629
Beverage and tobacco product mfg	3	120	\$29,209
Textile product mills	1	*	*
Wood product manufacturing	4	15	\$14,563
Printing and related support activities	4	29	\$22,294
Chemical manufacturing	4	*	*
Nonmetallic mineral product mfg	3	*	*
Primary metal manufacturing	2	*	*
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	5	43	\$20,914
Machinery manufacturing	1	*	*
Electrical equipment and appliance mfg	2	*	*
Miscellaneous manufacturing	6	11	\$16,900
WHOLESALE TRADE	48	373	\$36,543
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	28	188	\$40,863
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	12	152	\$30,873
Electronic markets & agents and brokers	9	32	\$38,109
RETAIL TRADE	168	2,247	\$21,968
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	28	369	\$31,952
Furniture and home furnishings stores	17	107	\$30,912
Electronics and appliance stores	8	31	\$21,003
Building material & garden supply stores	15	120	\$32,550
Food and beverage stores	13	273	\$21,677
Health and personal care stores	8	57	\$19,713
Gasoline stations	13	238	\$16,307
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	16	70	\$14,769
Sporting good, hobby, book, music stores	14	122	\$10,975
General merchandise stores	8	682	\$19,143
Miscellaneous store retailers	23	154	\$16,929
Nonstore retailers	5	25	\$30,989
TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHOUSING	35	355	\$35,172
Air transportation	2	*	*
Truck transportation	16	148	\$44,603

Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)

\* Data Not Disclosable

## Employment by Industry - Annual Averages 2007

Industry	Number of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Annual Wages Per Job
Transit and ground passenger transport	3	*	*
Support activities for transportation	7	33	\$47,903
Postal service	0	0	\$0
Couriers and messengers	6	83	\$34,213
Warehousing and storage	1	*	*
INFORMATION	27	327	\$41,090
Publishing industries, except Internet	5	*	*
Motion picture, sound recording industry	4	*	*
Broadcasting, except Internet	4	59	\$28,436
Telecommunications	12	135	\$56,519
ISPs, search portals, & data processing	2	*	*
FINANCE AND INSURANCE	60	321	\$46,446
Credit intermediation & related activity	26	225	\$32,807
Securities, comm. contracts, investments	9	*	*
Insurance carriers & related activities	24	65	\$55,223
Funds, trusts, other financial vehicles	2	*	*
REAL ESTATE AND RENTAL AND LEASING	48	195	\$18,674
Real estate	35	78	\$22,547
Rental and leasing services	13	117	\$16,072
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES	115	756	\$52,024
Professional and technical services	115	756	\$52,024
MANAGEMENT OF COMPANIES AND ENTERPRISES	3	*	*
ADMINISTRATIVE AND WASTE SERVICES	57	807	\$30,328
Administrative and support services	53	766	\$30,630
Waste management and remediation service	4	40	\$24,598
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	10	123	\$16,417
HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	152	2,714	\$28,138
Ambulatory health care services	98	984	\$28,275
Hospitals	3	*	*
Nursing and residential care facilities	16	458	\$19,413
Social assistance	35	*	*
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND RECREATION	54	501	\$13,975
Performing arts and spectator sports	7	26	\$19,187
Museums, historical sites, zoos, & parks	3	21	\$8,330
Amusements, gambling, and recreation	44	454	\$13,938
ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICES	123	1,732	\$11,049
Accommodation	17	413	\$12,470
Food services and drinking places	106	1,319	\$10,604
OTHER SERVICES	107	535	\$18,472
Repair and maintenance	40	165	\$23,746
Personal and laundry services	18	78	\$16,798
Membership associations & organizations	46	288	\$15,914
Private households	3	4	\$17,628
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	43	2,099	\$43,147
Local Government	10	1,091	\$36,807
State Government	11	711	\$47,511
Federal Government	22	298	\$55,944

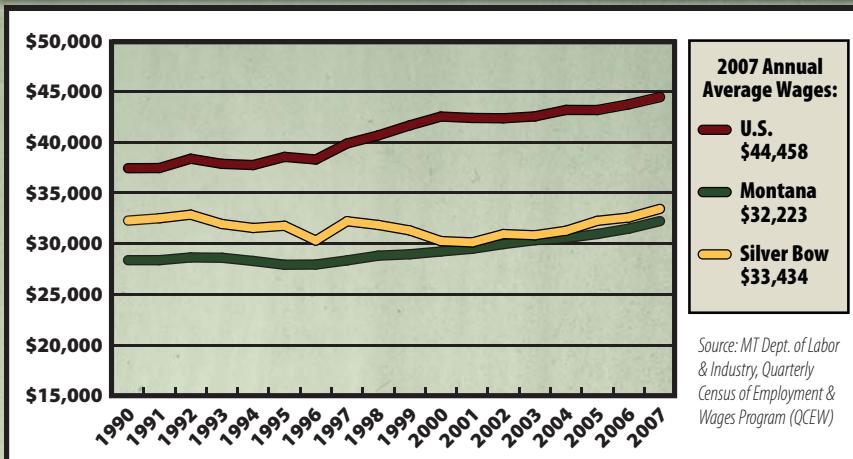
The QCEW program compiles data reported by all employers covered under Montana unemployment insurance. (Totals may not add due to nondisclosure of confidential industry data or to rounding.)

## Annual Average Labor Force - Silver Bow County

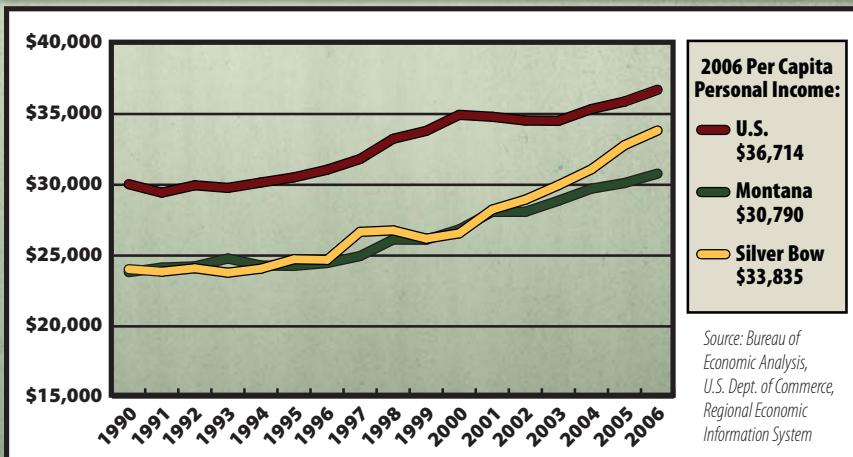
Year	Civilian Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
2007	17,212	16,652	560	3.3%
2006	17,333	16,724	609	3.5%
2005	17,204	16,536	668	3.9%
2004	17,143	16,388	755	4.4%
2003	16,931	16,132	799	4.7%
2002	16,984	16,111	873	5.1%
2001	17,099	16,220	879	5.1%
2000	17,192	16,202	990	5.8%

Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program (LAUS)

## Annual Average Wages, 1990 to 2007 (In 2007 Dollars)



## Per Capita Personal Income, 1990 to 2006 (In 2006 Dollars)



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